

Heber Tabernacle

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Deseret News Staff Writer

HEBER CITY—Wasatch Stake Tabernacle will continue to dominate the landscape of Heber Valley—with a new owner, the people of Heber City.

Title of the tabernacle and surrounding grounds will be deeded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to Heber City, with the restriction that activities and uses comply with Church standards, said Wilford W. Kirton Jr., attorney, general counsel for the Church.

Money received by the Church for the tabernacle will be used toward purchase of a \$60,000 site

for a new combined ward-stake center.

Part of the funds for the site were collected in a volunteer drive to save the 80-year-old landmark from demolition squads.

It was proposed the Church lease the tabernacle and grounds to the city. But Mayor Raymond N. Jiacoletti said city council members did not favor that plan.

The city will use the area as a municipal park. The building, to be maintained by the newly organized Wasatch Historical Society, will be a cultural center.

Fund-raising plans are under way by the historical society to raise \$14,000 in the next month

to help defray site acquisition and building restoration and maintenance costs.

Dora Flack, Bountiful, will give a benefit performance in the building at 8:15 p.m. Friday, July 30, when she reviews Rodello Hunter's new book, "A House of Many Roms, a novel about the Heber Valley.

Directed by Kent Larsen, chairman of the tabernacle program committee, a local dramatic group will present the play, "Arsenic and Old Lace," in the building in mid-August.

Other cultural events, both professional and amateur, will be scheduled on a regular basis, said Don Barker, chairman of the Wasatch Historical Society.

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Triumph at Heber City

Compliments are due the never-say-die workers of the Heber Valley and their allies who have won over heavy odds a campaign to save from destruction the 77-year-old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.

The drive to enlist public and church opinion and to raise funds to provide an alternative site for a new stake house in Heber City was carried on for more than a year—after a splendid old sandstone landmark had been officially doomed to make room for a new building. The citizens committee which raised \$60,000, partly by private subscription, has been reorganized into the Wasatch Historical Society, affiliated with the Utah State Historical Society, which will administer the building. The first presidency of the LDS Church supported the movement. The Wasatch Historic Society will restore the "run-down" building, which will serve as a community cultural center. The deed for the building has been presented the Heber City Council which will be responsible for its maintenance.

The triumph of the Save-the-Wasatch Tabernacle movement should serve as an inspiration and guide for other efforts to preserve landmarks which are being demolished at an alarming rate throughout the U.S. in blind disregard of historical and architectural excellence.

Events to Aid Heber

Tabernacle Repair Fund

Sunday Herald 10 Oct 1965

HEBER — The Wasatch County Historical Society, including the group which saved the Heber Tabernacle from destruction, this week announced a program of events to raise funds for money still needed on repairs and restoration of the historic building.

Preservation of the building is now assured, with transfer of the deed from the LDS Church to Heber City. The transfer came after more than a year of determined attempts of interested citizens, both in Heber and elsewhere, to prevent its destruction by Wasatch Stake President Harold Call and his supporters. President Call and his followers wished to destroy the building and erect a stake center-chapel structure on the site. A decision of the First LDS

Presidency was finally necessary to preserve the building.

On Monday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the tabernacle, the general public is invited to a meeting of the Wasatch County Historical Society, which has engaged Dr. T. Edgar Lyon as a speaker. Noted as a historian on Mormon affairs, Dr. Lynn will tell, with color slides, his experiences on the restoration of Nauvoo, Ill.

On Oct. 13 and 16, the newly-created Wasatch Players, a local drama group, will present Arsenic and Old Lace in the tabernacle as a fund-raising venture.

On Nov. 3, also in the tabernacle, the Utah Valley Symphony will give a concert, with proceeds to go toward the tabernacle restoration and repair fund.